

WINCANTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953

Wincanton,
Somerset.
June, 1954.

To the
Rural District Council of Wincanton

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1953.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	64,540
Population (1953)	...	...	...	...	17,580
Number of inhabited houses (1953)	...	...	...	...	5,494
Rateable Value (31st March, 1953)	...	...	...	...	£82,752
Net Product of Penny Rate (1953)	...	...	...	...	£328/17/7

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

BIRTHS

		Males Females		
Total		131	132	
Live Births	Legitimate	126	126	Birth Rate 15.5 per 1000
	Illegitimate	5	6	
Total		2	1	Birth Rate 0.35 per 1000
Still Births	Legitimate	2	1	
	Illegitimate	0	0	

DEATHS

Death from all causes: Total, 199. Males, 99. Females, 100.
Death Rate, 11.4 per 1000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

(a) from sepsis	...	...	...	nil
(b) from other causes	...	...	...	nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

				Males	Females
Total	...	...	...	3	2
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0

			Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under one week	...	...	2	2
„	„	from one to four weeks		
		(inclusive)	0	0
„	„	from one to six months	0	0
„	„	from six to twelve months	1	0
Total			3	2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
„	„	Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 199, compared with 242 in 1952.

The chief causes of Death were:—

Old Age	...	...	21	Cancer	...	...	...	32
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	64	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	34

In all “Causes of Death”:—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 43

„ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 28

„ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 20

„ „ over the age of 90 were 9

A total of 100 or 50.25 per cent of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	14	0	0
Measles	411	0	0
Whooping Cough	67	0	0
Pneumonia	14	0	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	31	30	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	0
Dysentery	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Food Poisoning	1	0	0
Tuberculosis:—			
(a) Respiratory	7	0	1
(b) Non-Respiratory	2	0	0

Notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was very satisfactory.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No case notified.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Measles and Whooping Cough were again in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was not so mild as usual, but there were no deaths from either disease—about 400 cases of Measles occurred in the first six months of the year; the greatest number in any one year since Measles became a notifiable Disease.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home

- (1) **General.**—There are eleven nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to Isolation Hospitals, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

B.—Midwives

There are ten certified midwives practising in the district.

C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—Hospitals available for the District

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—None.
- (2) **Fever.**—None.
- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is a Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.
(b) There is a Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of Maternity cases.

(c) There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, and the Regional Hospital Board.

(d) A Hospital at Wincanton, known as "Verrington Hospital", for aged persons, suffering from chronic ailments.

E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council.

F.—Ambulance Facilities

- (1) **For Infectious Cases.**—None in the District.
- (2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—There is a British Red Cross Society Ambulance, staffed by British Red Cross personnel, kept at Castle Cary. In addition, Ambulances from Shepton Mallet and Gillingham, Dorset, have been used as occasion requires.

H.—Scabies

No cases have been brought to my notice.

6.—LABORATORY WORK

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Knight and Sons (Chemists), Wincanton, and is supplied to Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, two additional Sanitary Inspectors and one pupil, all whole-time Officers, and myself (a part-time Officer).

There are also two Health Visitors in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLIES

(i) The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality, except for the private supply to the hamlet of Stowell. The systems are fully taxed and there were some areas at

the higher levels which suffered temporary shortages during peak loads.

(ii) Regular bacteriological and certain chemical examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table:—

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Public 34	12	3	—	54	9	4	—
Private 9	6	—	—	—	—	—	—

(The above Chemical Analyses refer to the following supplies:— Bruton, Castle Cary, Penselwood, Milborne Port, Pitcombe, South Brewham and Templecombe).

Water Supplies from Public Mains:—

Direct to the Houses		By means of Standpipes	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)
4,857	14,892	32	96

No. of parishes with piped water supply:—

(i) from public mains, 29; (ii) from private reservoirs, 2.

No. of parishes without a piped supply of water:—
Nil.

The Public Water Supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser extent, Penselwood. At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite, but the efficiency of this treatment is open to question.

A liming plant is available for use at Penselwood when required. No treatment is undertaken at Brewham.

It has been decided not to adopt Byelaws (Sec. 17 Water Act, 1945). Under these the use of lead pipes is prohibited.

General Observations

The proportion of the population supplied from public supplies is high. The demand for both Domestic and Agricultural use tends to increase, and this, together with the shortages arising, and with certain unsatisfactory private systems, indicates a need for a large increase of supply.

Chlorination. Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), Templecombe, Bruton and Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

Water supplies from wells:—

No. of Samples taken for Analysis			
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
—	1	—	—

No. of wells in which a piped supply was substituted for well water, 1.

No. of wells closed, nil.

No. of houses relying on well supplies, 86.

A new six inch main has been laid from Lodge Hill reservoir to South Cary at a cost of £1,658.

Future Proposals

To meet an estimated demand of 1,320,000 g.p.d., of which 505,000 is agricultural and 209,000 industrial, it is proposed to utilise the following existing sources:—

Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port, Penselwood and Pitcombe, producing 968,000 g.p.d., and a new source from Thornford in the Sherborne Rural District. The proposals include additional reservoirs, mains and pumping facilities, designed to make good deficiencies wherever they have occurred and to link the various separate systems.

The Scheme has been approved (in principle) by the Ministry.

Population Served by Piped Water Supplies

The following table gives details, by Parish, of houses and estimated population supplied by pipe:—

Parish	Pop. 1931 Census	Pop. 1951 Census	Total No. of houses	Public supply piped to houses	Pop. 1953 Est.	Public supply standpipe to houses	Pop. 1953 Est.	Private supply piped to houses	Pop. 1953 Est.
Alford ..	102	—	22	22	66	—	—	—	—
Ansford ..	305	—	170	167	511	—	—	1	3
Bratton									
Seymour	98	—	35	28	84	—	—	7	21
Bruham ..	378	—	131	119	357	4	12	4	12
Bruton ..	1,553	—	533	519	1,660	—	—	9	27
Castle Cary..	1,664	—	590	574	1,722	—	—	15	45
Charlton									
Horethorne	463	—	156	113	349	8	24	29	90
Charlton									
Musgrove	377	—	116	104	318	—	—	9	27
Compton									
Pauncefoot	208	—	61	25	75	—	—	36	108
Corton									
Denham	228	—	69	1	3	—	—	65	195
Cucklington	211	—	68	59	177	—	—	3	9
Henstridge ..	1,040	—	374	330	990	10	30	27	85
Holton ..	233	—	76	63	189	—	—	8	24
Horsington	611	—	177	137	461	—	—	19	60
Lovington ..	189	—	55	55	165	—	—	—	—
Maperton ..	125	—	37	27	81	—	—	5	15
Milborne Port	1,655	—	568	561	1,700	—	—	6	18
North Barrow	94	—	27	27	86	—	—	—	—
North Cad-									
bury	690	—	214	105	315	—	—	94	282
North									
Cheriton	178	—	59	57	171	—	—	2	6
Penselwood	285	—	85	73	216	—	—	4	12
Pitcombe ..	457	—	118	98	310	—	—	17	60
Queen Camel	472	—	174	160	483	—	—	2	6
Shepton									
Montague	231	—	64	45	135	—	—	9	27
South Barrow	86	—	35	35	105	—	—	—	—
South									
Cadbury	294	—	94	3	9	—	—	78	234
Sparkford ..	380	—	133	128	384	—	—	5	15
Stoke Trister	291	—	104	96	288	—	—	3	9
Templecombe	871	—	343	329	987	10	30	3	9
Wincanton ..	2,047	—	755	754	2,366	—	—	—	—
Yarlington ..	149	—	51	43	129	—	—	2	6
	15,965	16,755	5,494	4,857	14,892	32	96	462	1,405

9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:—
Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel, Sparkford and Wincanton.

Future Proposals

In addition to Templecombe, in respect of which the Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme, the villages accepted by the County Council as coming within the first Priority Group are North Cheriton, Sutton Montis and South Barrow.

The estimated costs of the schemes are:—

Templecombe	...	...	...	£26,000
North Cheriton	...	...	...	£8,300
Sutton Montis	...	...	...	£6,000
South Barrow	...	...	...	£815

10.—HOUSING

Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority and Ministry:—

LOCAL AUTHORITY

	Received		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31/12/52	5	5	4	4	1	1	—	—
(b) During year	5	6	5	6	—	—	—	—

MINISTRY

	No. Sent		Approved		Rejected		Under Consideration	
	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses	Applica- tions	No. of houses
(a) To 31/12/52	4	4	3	3	—	—	1	1
(b) During year	5	6	5	5	—	—	1	2

Average cost per dwelling approved:—£581.

(a) Number of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken:—900.

(b) Number of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit:—25.

(c) Number of houses occupied under (a) 870 and under (b) 25.

Number of houses found overcrowded:—3.

Houses Required:—

(i) To replace those unfit under (a) 870 and under (b) 25.

(ii) To abate overcrowding:—Nil.

(iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions *e.g.* two families living in the same house but not included in (i) or (ii):—300.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year:—409.

Note:—(a) This figure is based on the standard of the original survey.

(b) This figure refers to action taken during the year.

Total No. of houses in the District, 5,494.

„ „ „ owned by Local Authority, 1,358.

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversions to flats or Dwellings		Temporary such as Army huts etc.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority	86	—	59	—	—	—	
Private Enterprise	17	—	8	—	8	—	
County Council	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Totals	103	—	68	—	8	—	

No. of Post War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1953		Programme for 1954 (from 1st Sept., 1953 to 31st Aug., 1954)	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
492	87	66	16

Three problems, as regards housing, will confront the Council in the near future, viz:—

- (1) **Slum Clearance:**—It is hoped that this will be commenced in 1954. The difficulty here will be to find accommodation for families whose slum houses are demolished and who have been paying rent at the rate of 4/- to 6/- per week and who cannot pay very much more. The National Assistance Board will undoubtedly be called upon to help in some of these cases.
- (2) **The Old and Infirm:**—The problem of these increasingly numerous persons, which include widows, elderly spinsters and widowers living alone is one of considerable difficulty. Some Local Authorities, notably in Dorset, have to some extent solved the problem by the provision of “Eventide Homes”. The Somerset County Council, in a recent Circular, have offered financial assistance to Local Authorities contemplating steps in this direction.

- (3) **Problem Families:**—These are, fortunately, not very numerous in this District. The difficulty which confronts the Council is to place these families in a house the rent of which they are able and willing to pay and in a situation where they will not unduly interfere with the comfort and amenities of their neighbours.

CAMPING SITES

Number of Camping Sites (Permanent)	...	...	...	1
Acreage of Site ...	...	...	...	4,100
Maximum number allowed per acre (caravans)	...	...	...	7
Estimated number of campers during the year (average)	...	...	...	15

11.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

One (one person).

12.—PUBLIC INQUIRIES

A Public Inquiry for confirmation of the under-mentioned Clearance Order made by the Council under the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1949, was held at Wincanton on August 18th 1953:—High Street, Templecombe.

At the same Inquiry the Council submitted to the Minister for confirmation the under-mentioned Compulsory Purchase Order of lands in an area declared to be a Clearance Area by the Council on January 21st 1953:—

Coombe Street, Bruton.

Both the above were confirmed (with modifications) by the Minister.

13.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

(a) Total number of Registered Dairies ...	...	...	6
(b) Total number of Registered Distributors in the area	...	...	8
(c) Number of Supplementary licences issued to dealers whose dairy is outside your area	...	...	3

Milk Sampling:—

Designation.	Samples Taken.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	2	2	—
Accredited ...	—	—	—
Pasteurised... ...	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—
Undesignated ...	—	—	—

Biological Milk Sampling

No. Taken, Nil. Negative Results, Nil. Positive Results, Nil.

Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for:—

(a)	Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	3
(b)	Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	Retail only	...	...	...	...	43

Number of samples taken:—

		Hot Mix	Cold Mix
Grade 1	...	8	—
Grade 2	...	—	—
Grade 3	...	—	—
Grade 4	...	2	—

Premises where food is prepared

No. registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	23
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Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Date byelaws came into operation 31/7/50
The premises are subject to routine inspection and informal action has secured the desired result.

14.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES

(a)	No. in use under Ministry of Food	...	...	...	1
(b)	No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	...	...	...	—

Total number of animals slaughtered during year under:—

(a) 14,575; (b) Nil.

Names of any in use under Ministry of Food:—

South Western Dairies Co., Ltd., Bacon Factory, Bruton.

Knackers Yards.

Number Registered:—1, at Yenston, Templecombe.

15.—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

No. in area:—

(a)	Privately owned	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	Nil

Estimated average number of bathers daily during season:—
25—50.

Water used for filling pool:—
River Brue—Constant flow.

No purification plant is installed, but water treated with Chloride of Lime and Copper Sulphate at intervals.

This Pool is owned by the Governors of King's School, Bruton.
Samples taken: Nil.

16.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	12		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	40		
TOTAL	108	52		

2.—**Cases in which DEFECTS were found**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences: Unsuitable or defective	2	5		3	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					
TOTAL	2	5		3	

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc. Cleaning ...	267	—	—	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Wincanton,
Somerset.
9th June, 1954.

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.
Medical Officer of Health,
Balsam Gate,
Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1953.

The total number of inspections was 4,541 which included the following:—

Public Health Acts

Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Drainage, sewers and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	804
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Refuse and Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	350
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Dangerous buildings	30

New Buildings

Byelaws and Town Planning and Building Licensing	1,307
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Housing	477
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Food and Drugs Act

Meat Inspection	323
Food premises	215
Milk and Dairies	16

Slaughter of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	330

4,541

SEWERAGE

The general position in regard to sewage disposal has not changed materially. The high cost of repairs must be a cause of serious concern, particularly as it is becoming apparent that a considerable amount of relaying existing sewers is necessary.

The rising rate burden must inevitably limit capital expenditure on sewerage schemes.

No complaint has arisen concerning the effluent of the Henstridge or Wincanton Sewage Works.

The effluents from the Sewage Works at Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Sparkford have given generally satisfactory results on analysis of samples taken by the River Board Inspectors.

Bruton

The report of the Consulting Engineers dealing with the reconstruction of the Sewage Works and with the extension of the system to include parts of Pitcombe Parish, has not yet been received.

Castle Cary

Financial considerations have delayed the work of relaying the Fore Street sewer to exclude the infiltration of spring water.

Sparkford

A short length of sewer which was found to be uneven has been relaid, removing one check on the flow and this has resulted in a decrease in the amount of surcharge.

Templecombe

The river pollution continues. The Engineers have presented their scheme, which has been approved by the Council and which, after certain necessary preliminaries, will be submitted to the Ministry.

Wincanton

The cracks to the building and plant at the Sewage Works have not worsened. The pumphouse roof has been covered with pea gravel to check excessive changes of temperature.

A deep manhole has been constructed in the Market Place.

Two piers, carrying the sewers over the River Cale at Lawrence Farm, were found defective when one of the sewers broke. The necessary repairs have been executed in difficult weather, at a cost of £280.

HOUSING

Council Houses

Eighty-six Council houses have been erected during the year.

It is well to reflect however, that a number of these must be regarded as replacements rather than additional housing, and the number on the Waiting List remains high at 409, excluding 14 in requisitioned properties.

If the large programme of local authority building is to be eased every encouragement must be given to individuals to build their own houses. The high cost of building is causing many potential house builders to halt, and the difficulties of site acquisition at reasonable prices is another important deterrent.

Although the number of houses constructed by private enterprise is 17, the same as for last year, a steady increase would indicate a more healthy sign.

The following table gives details of the houses completed during 1953:—

PARISH	Non- Tradi- tional	TRADITIONAL				Total	P/E.	
		Cornish Units	Flats	Parlour-type				Non- parlour
				F.2	U.P.5				P.	N.P.4
Ansford	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Bruton	—	—	—	5	6	11	1	
Castle Cary	—	12	4	—	2	18	1	
Charlton Musgrove	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Henstridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Milborne Port	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
North Cadbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Pitcombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Queen Camel	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
South Barrow	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	
Templecombe	38	—	—	—	—	38	—	
Wincanton	—	3	—	—	12	15	2	
	38	15	4	5	24	86	17	

Requisitioning

The number of properties, exclusive of ex-W.D. huts, under requisition has decreased from 26 at the beginning to 16 at the end of the year. It is intended that all shall be released by the end of 1954.

Licences

The number of unfit houses under licence for temporary occupation at the end of the year was 18, as against 34 for last year.

Unfit Houses

A start has been made with the clearance of unfit houses—two Clearance Areas being represented and subsequently confirmed by the Minister, subject to minor modifications.

One invloved sixteen houses at Coombe Street, Bruton, and the other two houses at Templecombe.

Unfortunately despite the completion of 492 Council houses since the War, some houses, which are subject to Undertakings not to use, remain occupied.

Improvement Grants

The Council have agreed to make full grants to applicants in all suitable cases. The scope of the Act is rather limited as it was designed to aid the provision of modern amenities and not to secure the execution of major repairs. For this reason a number of applicants had to be disappointed.

Overcrowding

Cases outstanding, 1st January, 1953	...	...	...	6
Cases discovered during 1953	...	...	...	4
				—
				10
Cases abated during 1953	...	...	...	7
				—
Cases outstanding, 31st December, 1953...		...	...	3
				—

Movable Dwellings

Ten new licences have been issued.
Seven licences have been renewed.

Notifiable Disease

Disinfection has been carried out in six cases.

The steam disinfecter at the Verrington Hospital, Wincanton, has been taken over, but it has not been necessary to use it during the year.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL ACTION

In addition to the 42 Informal Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year, 61 have been served. Of the total of 103, 5 have been withdrawn, 3 followed up by Statutory action and 51 complied with.

Fourteen Statutory Notices have been served, two under the Public Health Act and twelve under the Housing Acts. The two served under the Public Health Act have been complied with, together with seven of those served under the Housing Acts.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:—

Remedied

Defective Sewers and Drains	...	...	...	...	11
Overflowing and leaking Cesspools	...	...	...	...	4
Defective, insanitary or insufficient closets:—					
(a) at dwellings	...	...	...	...	1
(b) at factories	...	...	...	...	2
(c) at inns	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous or dilapidated premises	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances	...	...	...	...	17
Contraventions—Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	12
Food Byelaws	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	1
Milk and Dairies Regulations				...	1
Meat Regulations	...	...	...	...	—
Petroleum Regulations			...	...	1
Rodent infestations cleared	...	...	...	...	2

Other Results

Public Health Act—Houses repaired	...	...	...	2
Housing Acts—Houses made fit	...	...	...	18
Houses repaired	...	...	...	—
Houses Demolished	...	...	...	6
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	2
Houses Lost by Conversion	...	...	...	8
				—
				98
				—

Smoke Abatement

More attention is being paid to smoke nuisances, especially as the emission of smoke, apart from the harmful effect on public health, is an indication of waste of fuel.

An example of this has occurred at the Penselwood Pumping Station, where one Diesel engine has emitted black smoke persistently. So far the necessary adjustments have not been made.

HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The House Refuse and Salvage Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. Two ten cubic yard side-loading vehicles are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving an estimated population of 7,000.

The remainder of the District, with the exception of a few outlying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Charges are made for the collection of Trade Refuse.

The two refuse dumps used are at Wincanton, which is now almost filled, and at Bowden.

The new tip at Maperton has been leased and fenced, and preparatory work is in progress.

The low price of paper has reduced receipts but although the market shows signs of improvement, no great price increase can be anticipated. Nevertheless the salvage of paper remains worth while.

The continued support of the public to the Salvage Scheme is most gratifying.

The following Table gives the Salvage Sales for the past three years:—

	Tons			Value		
	1953	1952	1951	£ 1953	£ 1952	£ 1951
Paper	175.99	129.3	124.1	1237.86	1369.5	1885.25
Ferrous Metals ...	15.54	44.9	14.1	53.12	182.3	47.00
Non-Ferrous Metals	.60	—	0.53	35.25	—	32.10
Textiles	4.63	9.9	4.55	99.95	229.5	134.25
Bones	0.31	0.3	1.15	1.53	1.8	6.30
	197.07	184.4	144.43	1427.71	1783.1	2104.90

Closet Accommodation

There were 18 conversions from earth to water closets during the year.

Public Conveniences

There are five public conveniences in the district, one each at Bruton, Castle Cary and Milborne Port and two at Wincanton.

FOOD

(1)	The total number of food premises in the District is	...	...	...	...	224
	This total is made up as follows:—					
	Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	58	
	Grocery stores (includes green-groceries, and village general stores)	...	...	...	75	
	Butcheries	...	...	...	16	
	Confectioneries (including sweets, cakes and ice-cream)	...	...	...	19	
	Cafes	...	...	...	16	
	Fried fish and wet fish shops	...	...	...	7	
	Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2	
	Egg Packing Station and Poultry Plucking Station	...	...	...	1	
	Dairies	...	...	...	1	
	Canteens inc. one school kitchen	...	...	...	5	
	Bakeries	...	...	...	24	
						224

(2)	The number of Food premises registered under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is	...	...	...	...	*46
	Groceries (Sale of Ice-cream)	...	...	...	21	
	Confectioners (Sale of Ice-cream)	...	...	...	13	
	Dairy premises (Sale of Ice-cream)	...	...	...	1	
	Works canteens (Sale of Ice-cream)	...	...	...	1	
	Cafes (Sale of Ice-cream)	...	...	...	10	
					—	46
	Fried fish shops and cafes registered for fried fish (2)	...	...	...	7	
					—	7
	Butchers shops (Sausage making)	...	...	...	12	
	Bacon factories (Sausage making)	...	...	...	1	
					—	13
						*66

(*Two premises are each registered under two headings.)

Of the 46 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream only one deals with ice-cream which is not pre-packed.

No. of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	6
No. of inspections of Registered Food premises	...	...	...	...	15

Advice is given to food handlers at the time of inspection. Condemned offals are burnt and condemned meat is collected for glue making. Other condemned foodstuffs, principally tinned foods, are buried at the controlled tip.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

A feature of the year is the progress that has been made in bringing licensed premises up to date—not only in relation to the provision of hot and cold water to the bars, but also in improvement of sanitary accommodation—and in general repair.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The County Council have delegated to this Council their powers under Section 38, Sub. Sec. (3), (4) and (5) of the Act which deal with lighting, facilities for meals and for washing. Inspections have been made in 33 cases, but no contraventions have been found.

MEAT

All carcasses of pigs slaughtered at the Bruton Bacon Factory continue to be examined.

The results are included in the following table:—

	Sheep and Lambs	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	14,575
No. Inspected					14,575
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...					64
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					*1,760
Per cent of the number inspec- ted affected with disease other than tuberculosis					*12.1
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...					30
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					*770
Per cent of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis					*5.5

*These figures are to a small extent estimated as it is impracticable to identify every organ with the carcass.

Full records are kept of the incidence of disease in the various organs, etc.

The following are the principal details:—

					Tuberculosis	Other diseases
Carcases	...	...	...	...	30	64
Heads	...	...	...	...	690	19
Plucks	...	...	...	...	103	250
Livers	...	...	...	...	2	178
Lungs	...	...	...	...	—	1176
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	122	422

Miscellaneous Foods

The following table gives particulars of the other meat and foods condemned:—

At Butcher's Shops:—

Home-killed:

Beef Suet—15 lbs.
 Lamb— $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
 Mutton—196 lbs.
 Pork—86 lbs.
 Ox Tail— $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
 Beast Head—64 lbs.
 Tongue—13 lbs.
 Veal—68 lbs.
 Beef— $536\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Imported:

Mutton—115 lbs.
 Frozen Beef—85 lbs.

Tinned Foods:—

2,133 lbs have been condemned and destroyed.

Other Foods condemned included:—

1 ton 3 cwts. 2 qrts. 14 lbs.—Milk Powder (2,142 tins)
 $12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—Tinned Shoulder Ham
 12 lbs.—Fruit Cake
 $12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—Bacon
 15 lbs.—Baked Faggots
 $61\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—Beef Sausages
 $14\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.—Pork Sausages
 28 lbs.—Smoked Cod Fillet
 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.—Pressed Meat

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

No cases have been reported.

RODENT CONTROL

No charge is made for operations at dwellings.

Charges, based on the actual cost of operations, continued to be made in respect of business premises.

Greater use has been made of the new rodenticide Warfarin, with generally satisfactory results.

The sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are all subject to regular treatment.

The summary of operations is given in the following table:—

		Class of Property			
		L.A.	D.Hs.	Bus.	Agric.
Prevalence of rats and/or mice ...	...	8	101	15	15
Number infested by:—					
Major ...	...	6	43	9	14
Minor ...	...	2	48	3	1
Mice only ...	...	—	10	3	—
Number of properties inspected ...	...	10	448	254	29
Number of treatments carried out ...	...	8	101	14	15

Properties retreated are not included.

BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING

Byelaws

The following tables summarize the action taken during the year:—

In abeyance at 31st December, 1952	...	...	9	
New applications	...	...	233	
			—	242
Approved	...	...	222	
Rejected	...	...	2	
Withdrawn	...	...	6	
			—	230
In abeyance at 31st December, 1953	...	...		12
<i>Infringments:—</i>				
Relating to lack of notices, etc.	...	...		11
No. which also included defects	...	...		4
Action taken in addition to the usual warning:—				
Defective work corrected	...	...		—
Action incomplete	...	...		6
No further action	...	...		2
Plans presented	...	...		4

Town Planning

		B/F 1st Jan. 1953	New Appli- cations	Total	No. Ap- proved	No. Re- fused	No. With- drawn	Not Yet Cat.	Per- mitted de- velop- ment	No Deci- sion
Cat. A	...	4	92	96	79	3	8			6
Cat. B	...	25	103	128	75	9	3			41
Cat. C	...	—	1	1	1	—	—			—
Cat. D	...	5	24	29	14	—	1			14
Others	...	—	15	15	—	—	—	9	6	—
		34	235	269	169	12	12	9	6	61

Infringements :—

29 cases were reported during the year.

BUILDING LICENSING

The following table summarizes the action taken:—

Applications brought forward 1st January, 1953	...	26	
Applications received	... ..	42	
		—	68
No. of licences issued:—			
New houses	... ..	17	
Additional Units	... ..	2	
Housing repairs	... ..	16	
Licences dealt with other than by issue:—			
Sent to Ministry of Works...	... ..	7	
Refused	... ..	1	
Withdrawn	... ..	8	
		—	51
Carried forward to 1st January, 1954:—			
Applications to build new houses	... ..	15	
Applications for repairs, etc.	... ..	2	
		—	17

There has been a considerable relaxation of licensing restrictions, the limit for general repairs having been raised to £500, as from June 11th, and a further amendment to £1,000 is to come into effect after December 31st.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. GRAY.

